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Fifty-ninth session
9-20 March 2015
Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and to the special session of the General Assembly entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century"

Statement submitted by Young Professionals Forum, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council*

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 36 and 37 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

* The present statement is issued without formal editing.

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Statement

Young Professionals Forum has analysed the priority of the fifty-ninth session of the Commission on the Status of Women Session March 2015 — Theme "The Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, including current challenges that Affects its Implementation".

Young Professionals Forum believes that "The Beijing Platform for Action" calls upon governments, the international community and civil society, including the private sector, to empower women and girls by taking action in 12 critical areas: poverty, education and training, health, violence, armed conflict, the economy, power and decision-making, institutional mechanisms for the advancement of women, human rights, the media, the environment and the girl child.

This is a powerful declaration that has faced different implementation challenges; a good example that shows the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action has not met its expectations is, among others, the constant fight against the girl child education in developing countries, most government structures and corporations still being represented by men, and the number of women living in poverty has increased in all regions due to the outbreak of different viral diseases.

This is a burden to women who are most especially the key caregivers to children, the sick, and the elderly. This has caused women to experience unemployment, underemployment.

Young Professionals Forum calls for governments, the international community and civil society, including the private sector, to remap its strategies, create programs that will benefit women's advancement, poverty alleviation, education, and empowerment. Doing this will help overcome the challenges of implementing the Beijing Platform for Action Priority themes.

The twenty-third special session of the General Assembly on Women 2000: the first five year assessment conducted after the adoption, also included the current challenges that affect the full implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action.

Young Professionals Forum calls for a strong commitment on the part of Governments, international organizations and institutions at all levels, and other stakeholders in fighting to remove the challenges of the Beijing Platform for Action including violence against women, which is still on the rise, negative stereotypes, gender equity and other laws and policies that affect them.

Young Professionals Forum reaffirms that current challenges of the Beijing Platform for Action will require a proper analysis and development of strategic objectives and action plans of possible solutions that will help to achieve the ultimate goal, which is the successful implementation of The Beijing Platform for Action by the Governments and other stakeholders. In doing this, Government should tap the rich assets that are present in academia, professional associations, international & local Non-Government Organizations.

The Young Professionals Forum reaffirms that on the national level government has a major responsibility and also takes a leading role in the implementation and success of the decelerations, in order to overcome the challenges of The Beijing Platform for Action.

The General Assembly of the United Nations at its fiftieth session endorsed the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action as adopted by the Conference "BEIJING DECLARATION" in Beijing in September 1995.

The Young Professionals Forum considers it very essential for United Nations General Assembly to urge and reaffirm a strong commitment on the part of Governments, international organizations and institutions at all levels to uphold the Millennium Development Goals in order to provide empowerment and the advancement of women.

The Young Professionals Forum proposes the establishment of global collaboration among governments and other stakeholders based on a spirit of partnership, fairness, and gender sensitive policy making. This will help to foster the successful implementation of the Millennium Development Goals for women and girls.